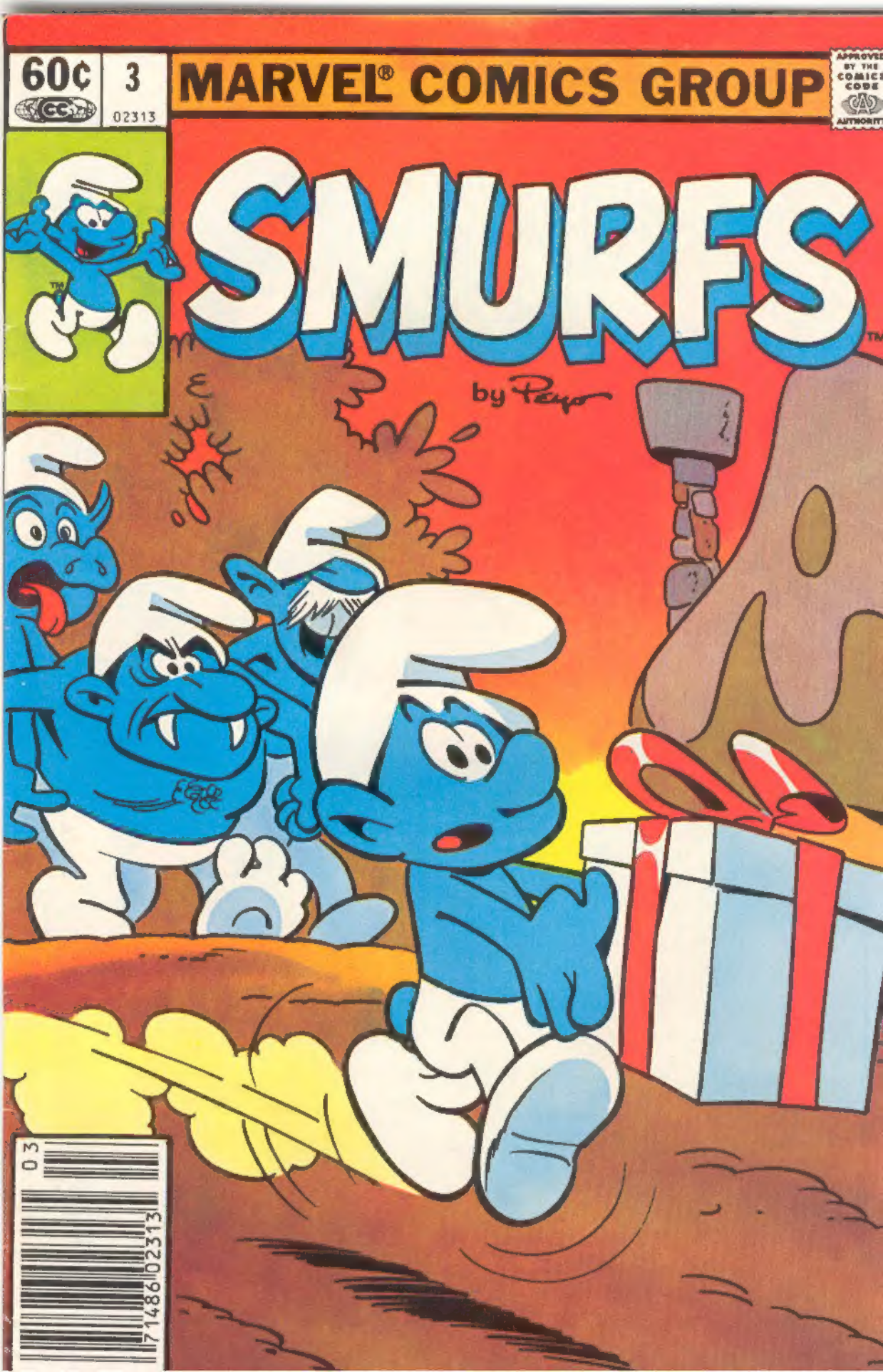
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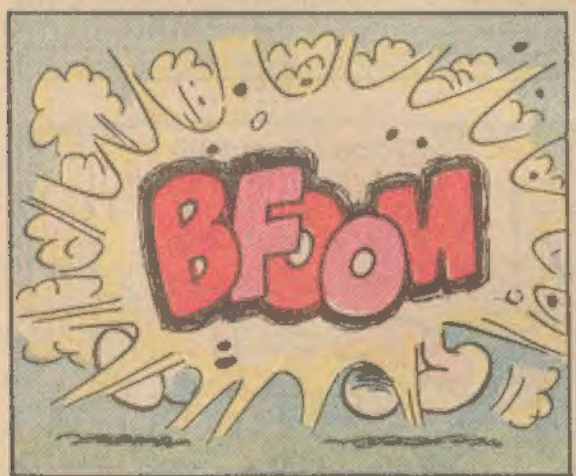

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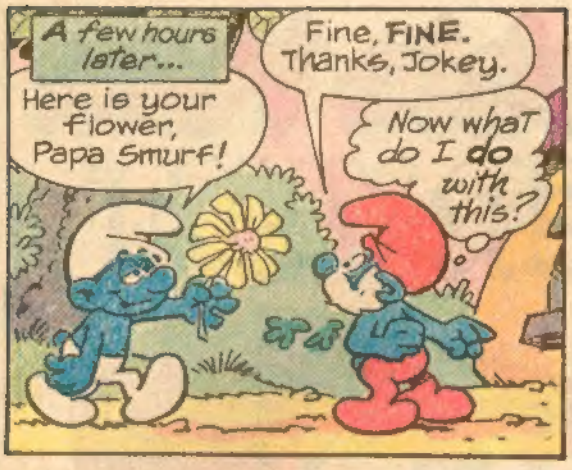

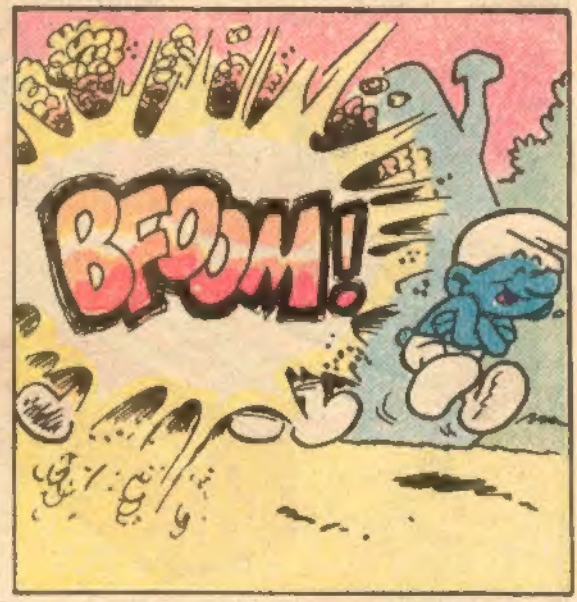

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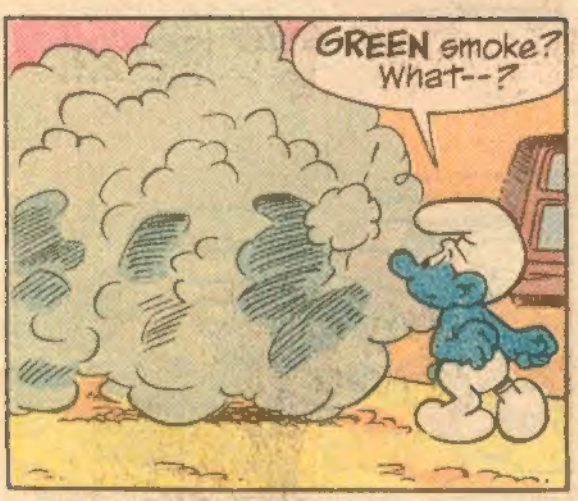
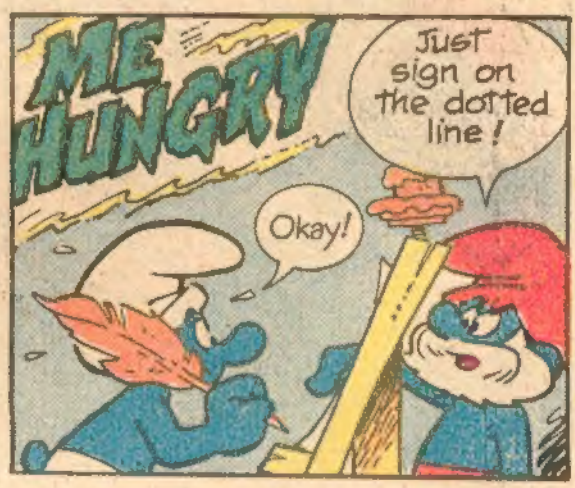

GREEN smoke? What--?

GROWPHROARR
This... This is horrible! W-What happened?

AARNAARR
The Smurfs have been changed into-- MONSTERS! Papa Smurf! HELP!

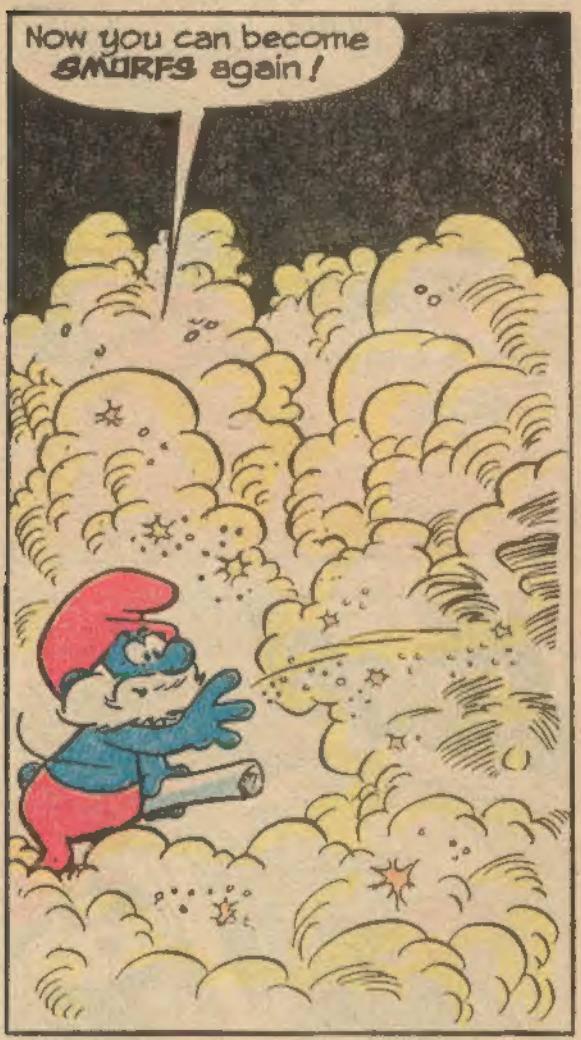
My surprise changed them into THIS! Oh, Papa Smurf, help me! I swear I'll NEVER make a practical joke again!

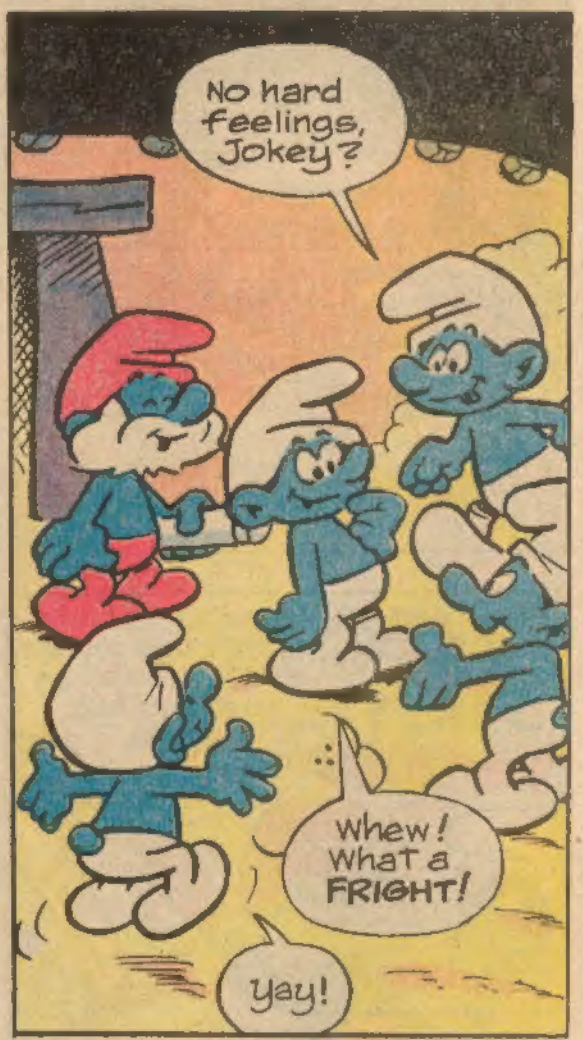
GRROWRRR EAT JOKEY YUM YUM
Are you ready to sign this promise NEVER To smurf an exploding box again?
Ulp!

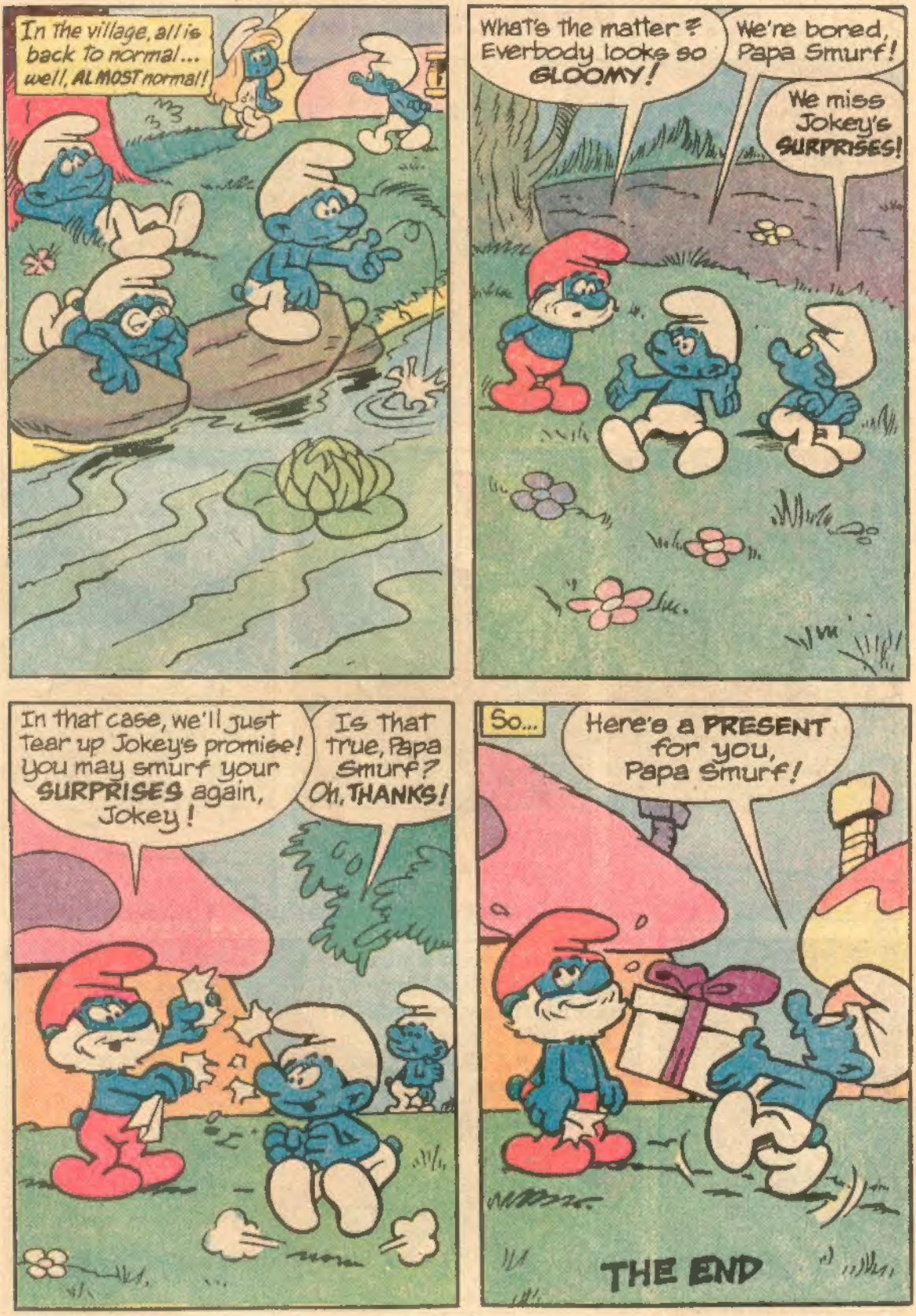

ME HUNGRY
Just sign on the dotted line!
Okay!

And now, to tell the good news to our dear little monsters!
?

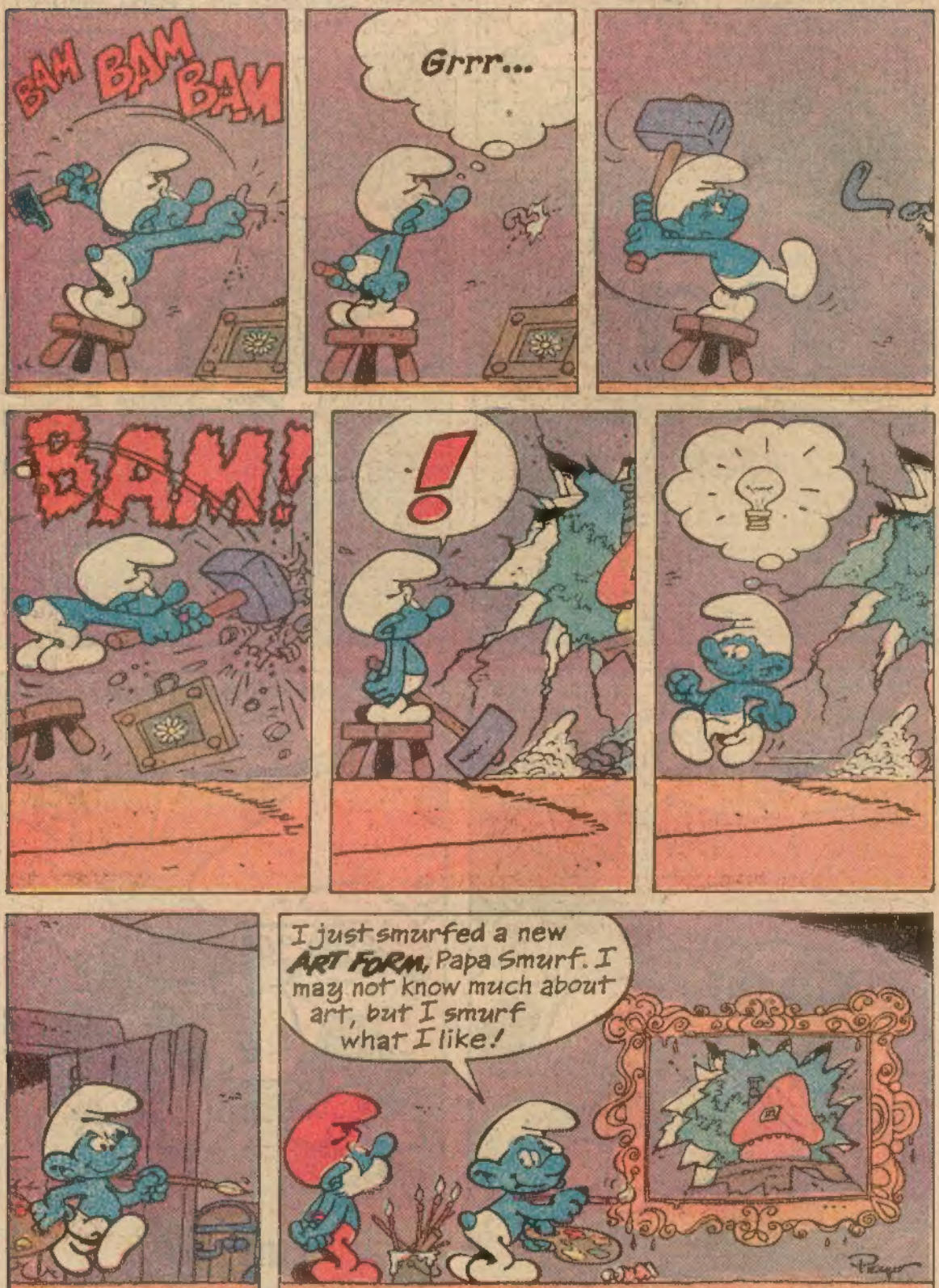
Friends, Jokey Smurf has promised!
Hooray!
Tee Hee!


Now you can become SMURFS again!


No hard feelings, Jokey?
Whew! What a FRIGHT!
Yay!


In the village, all is back to normal... well, ALMOST normal!
What's the matter? Everbody looks so GLOOMY!
We're bored, Papa Smurf!
We miss Jokey's SURPRISES!
In that case, we'll just tear up Jokey's promise! You may smurf your SURPRISES again, Jokey!
Is that true, Papa Smurf? Oh, THANKS!
So...
Here's a PRESENT for you, Papa Smurf!
THE END

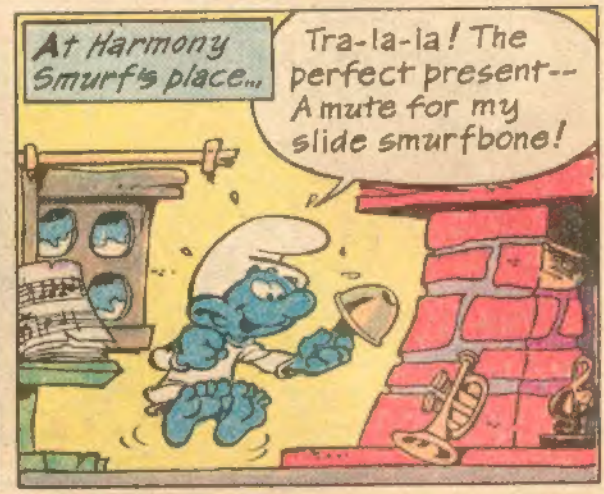
I'VE GOT YOUR PICTURE ON MY SMURF

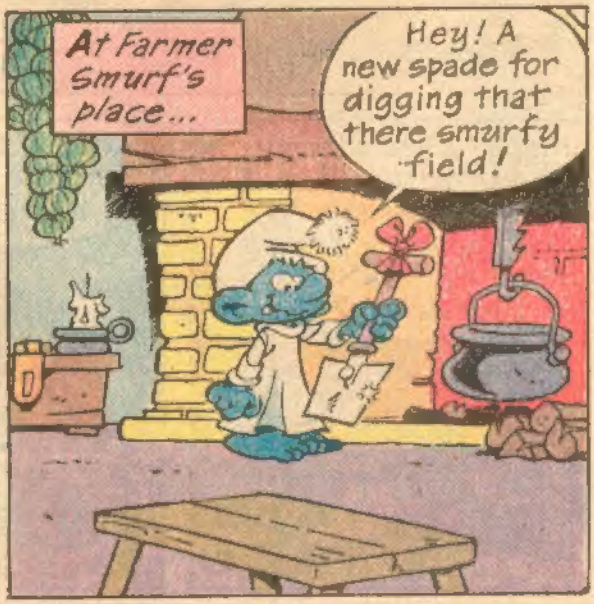


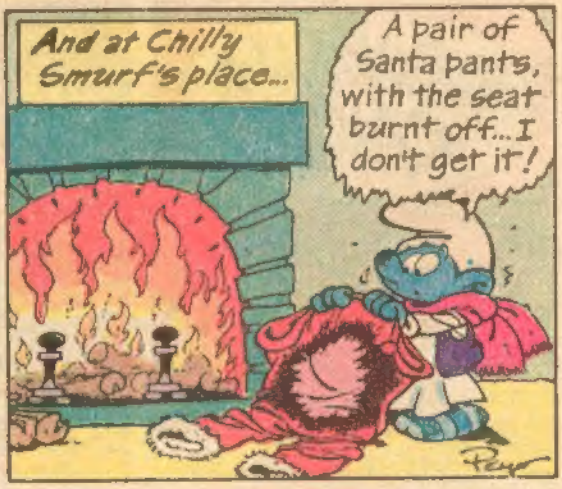
CALL ME IRRESMURFABLE...

Hey, smurfs! Will someone help me smurf this sack of flour?
Didn't you hear me? All right, I'll smurf it all by myself--but can someone please smurf me some sarsaparilla?
Hmph! I need some wood for the fire. I said--SOME WOOD! FOR THE FIRE! Good smurf, can they be deaf?
Hmm. I think I know a way to cure them...
Oh, what a delicious sarsaparilla cake I've smurfed for my dear little smurfs...
SARSAPARILLA CAKE!
SCRUNCH YUM GULP
See? They're cured!

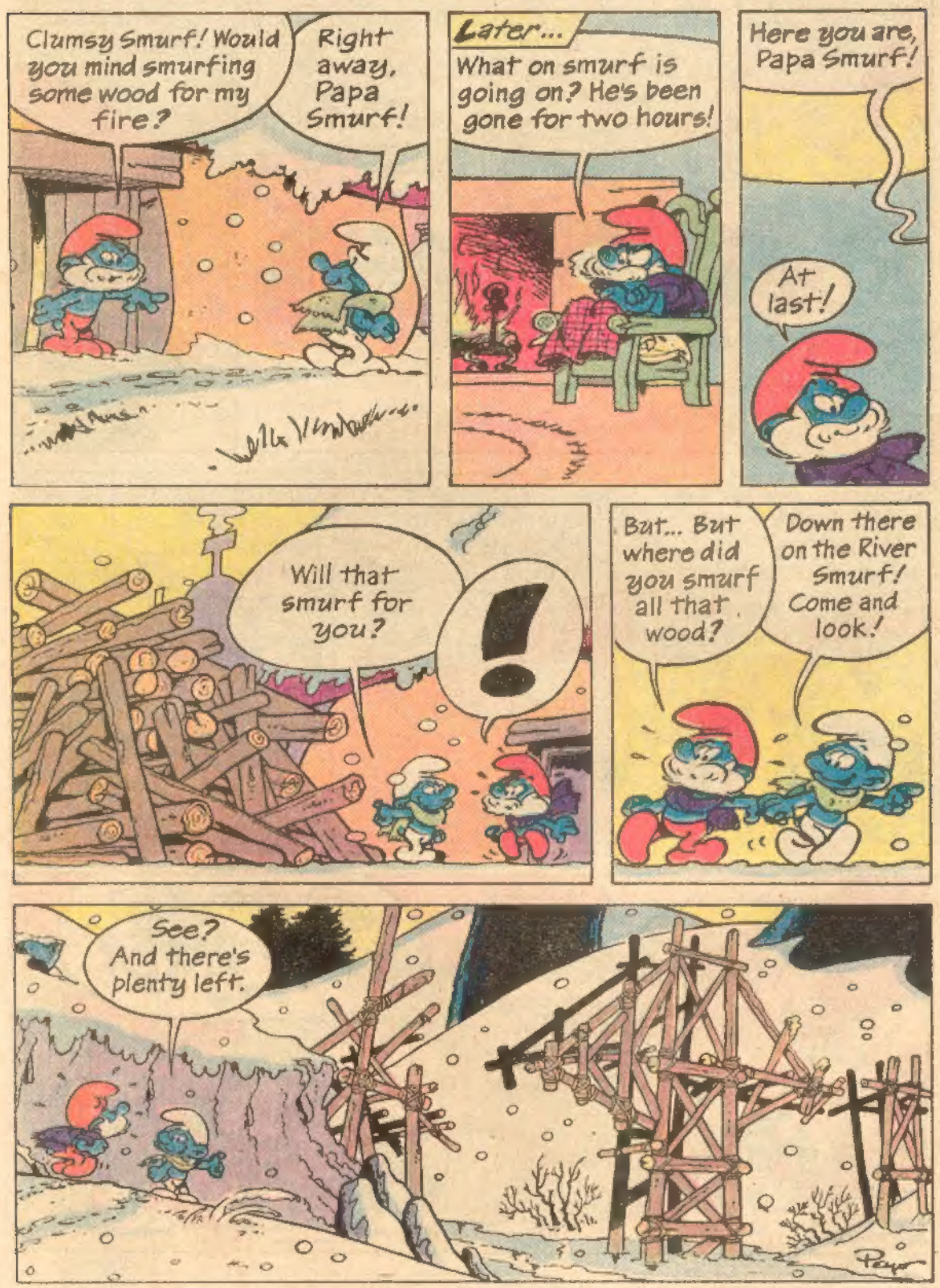
ON THE SMURF DAY OF CHRISTMAS





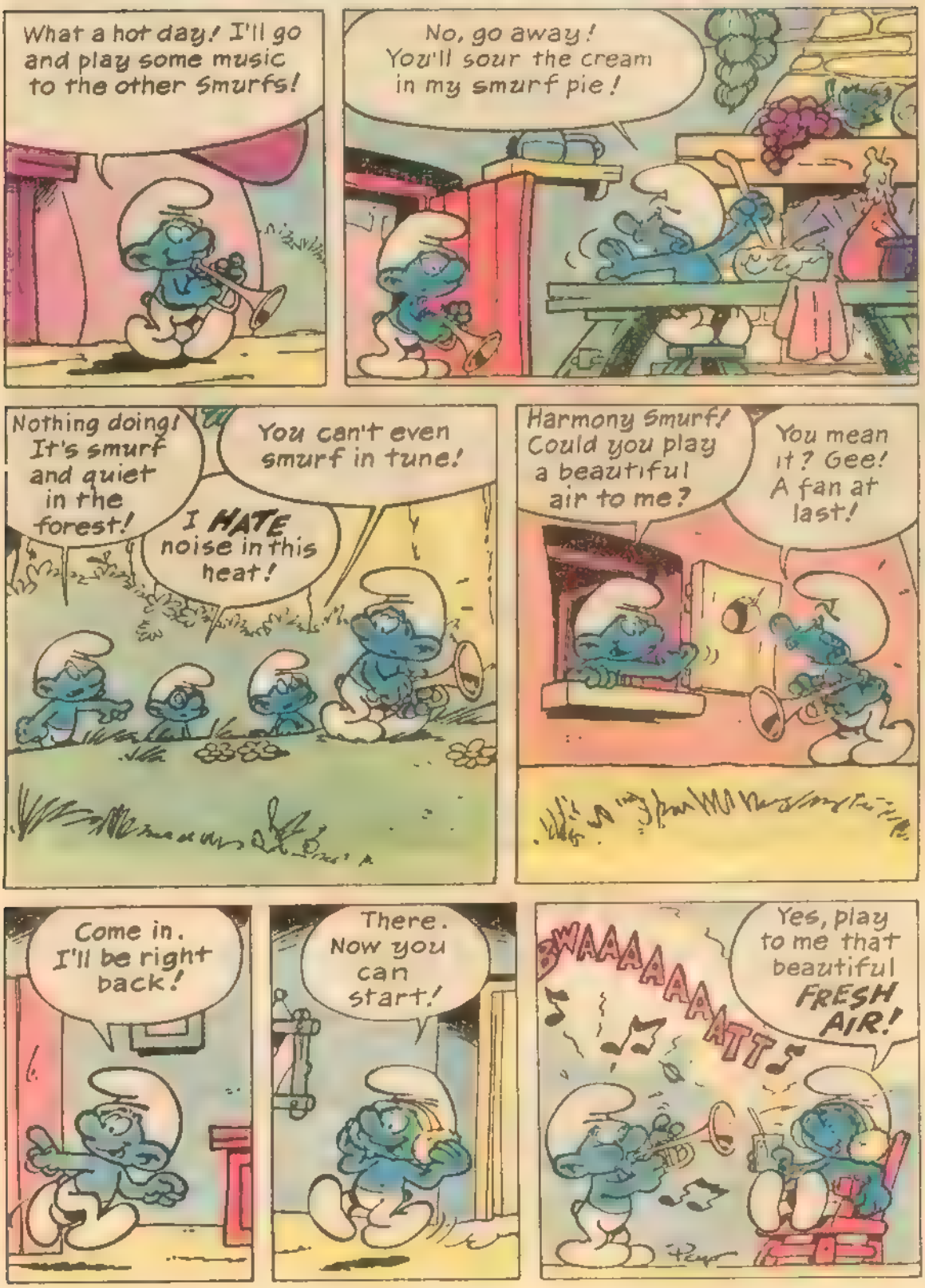


SOMETIMES IN WINTER I GAZE INTO THE SMURFS


Clumsy Smurf! Would you mind smurfing some wood for my fire?
Right away, Papa Smurf!
Later...
What on smurf is going on? He's been gone for two hours!
Here you are, Papa Smurf!
At last!
Will that smurf for you?
!
But... But where did you smurf all that wood?
Down there on the River Smurf! Come and look!
See? And there's plenty left.

I just can't stand it any more! He can't smurf a note in tune! We'd better take his trumpet away!
He can smurf the wrong notes with ANY instrument!
Let's ask Handy Smurf if he has an idea!
Never mind what he plays, he can't smurf in tune. Any ideas, Handy Smurf?
Wait a minute
Here's the answer! Give him this smurfical box. Hear this nice music?
Gee! Thank you!
I'll give you this lovely smurfical box -- if you give me your trumpet.
OKAY!
Boy, this smurfical box really plays beautiful music!

I SMURF MUSIC, ANY KIND OF MUSIC!


What a hot day! I'll go and play some music to the other Smurfs!
No, go away! You'll sour the cream in my smurf pie!
Nothing doing! It's smurf and quiet in the forest!
You can't even smurf in tune!
I HATE noise in this heat!
Harmony Smurf! Could you play a beautiful air to me?
You mean it? Gee! A fan at last!
Come in. I'll be right back!
There. Now you can start!
BWAAAAAAATT
Yes, play to me that beautiful FRESH AIR!

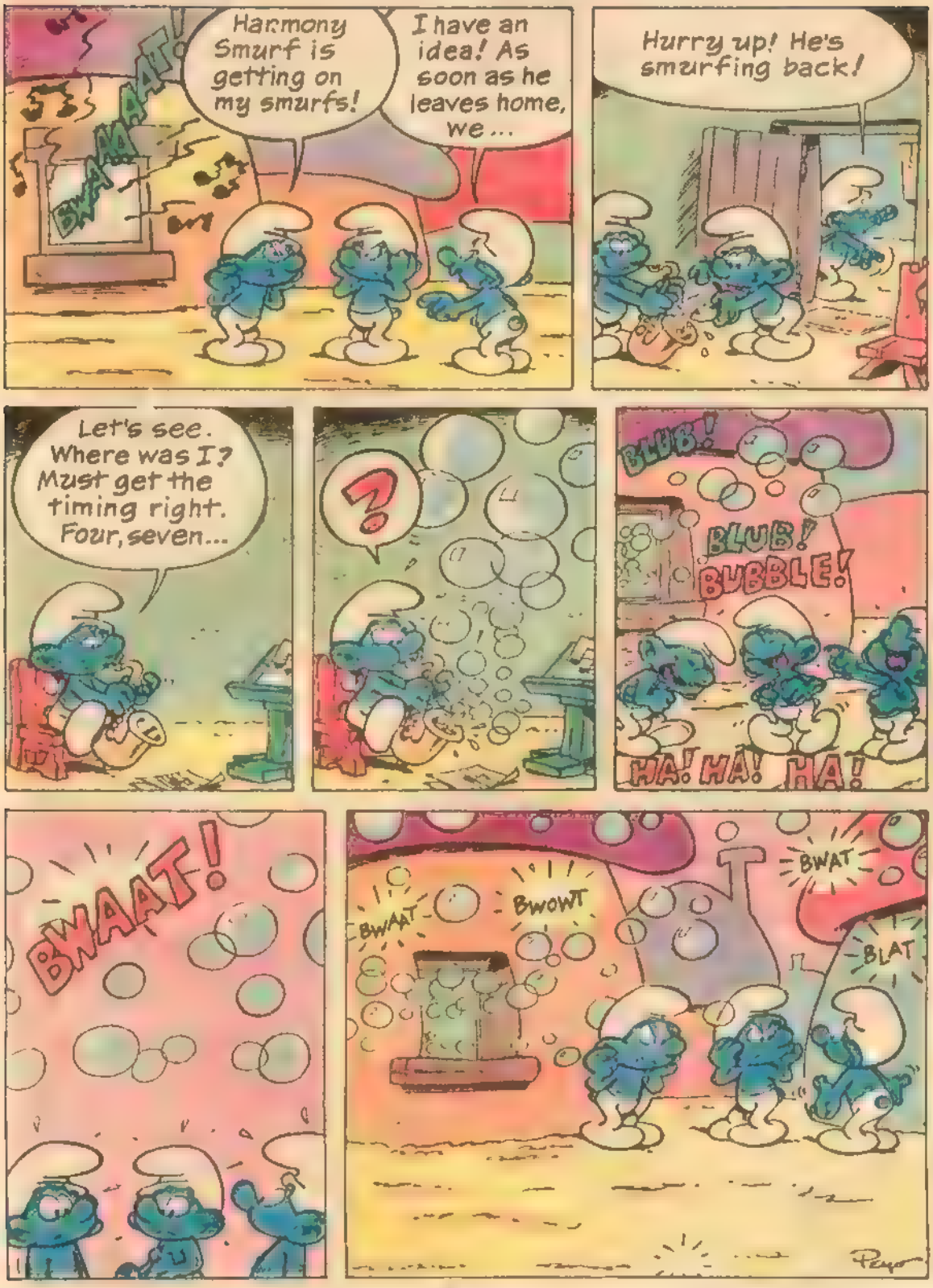
WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED SMURF?!

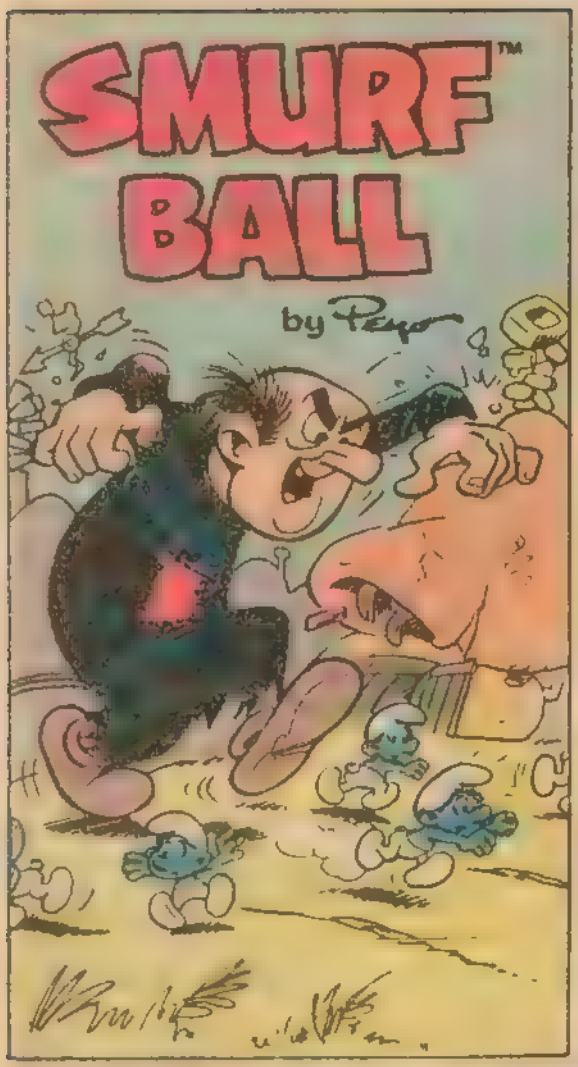
Hey! What sort of a smurf is that?
Why, it's a smurf, of course.
Oh. And what does it smurf?
It smurfs. What else?
And it smurfs what?
It smurfs smurfy-smurf.
Smurf carefully, I'll smurf you how this smurf smurfs. When you smurf this smurf, you smurf off a series of smurfings to smurf the smurfy smurf from this smurf. Did you smurf?
Er... I smurf so...
He didn't seem to undersmurf a single smurf. Really, it's easy as smurf!

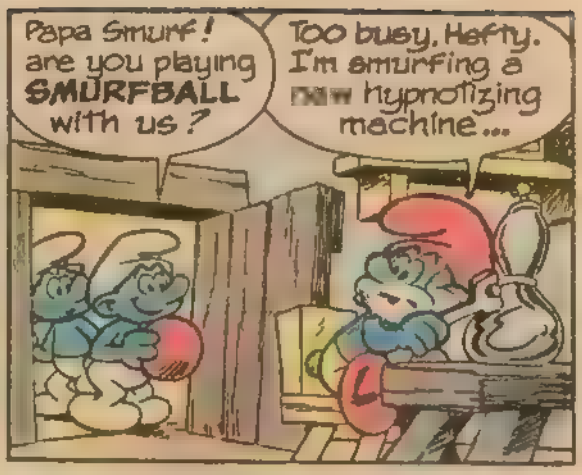
BANG! BANG! SMURFWELL'S SILVER HAMMER CAME DOWN UPON HIS HEAD!

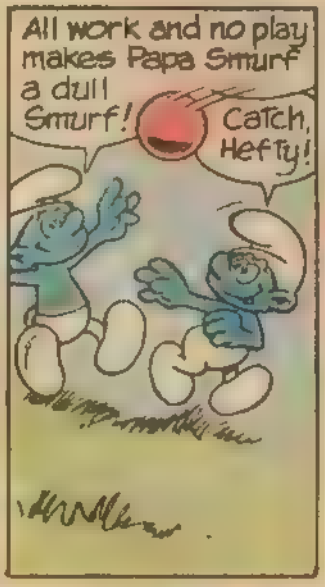
...And I always say to Papa Smurf (and Papa Smurf says I'm right), that a smurf in time saves nine, and Papa Smurf knows about these things, because Papa Smu...
..uuurf!
BANG!
Enough! I have had MORE than enough!
But I'm going to tell Papa Smurf! I'm going to tell him: Papa Smurf, you should speak smurfly and carry a big stick, and Papa Smurf will say I'm right, because he always says I'm right, and Papa Smu...
...uuurf!
BANG!
?!

I'M FOREVER SMURFING BUBBLES...




SMURF™
BALL
by Peyo


Papa Smurf! are you playing SMURFBALL with us?
Too busy, Hefty. I'm smurfing a new hypnotizing machine...


All work and no play makes Papa Smurf a dull Smurf!
Catch, Hefty!

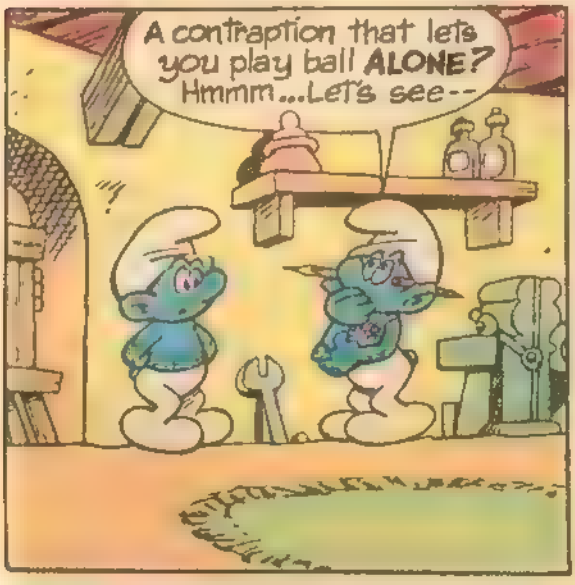
HHNG!

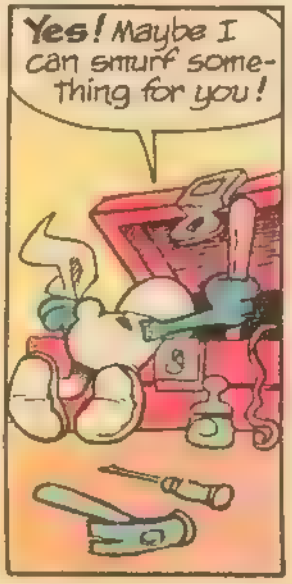
!
POW!
SOCK!
WHAM!
POW!

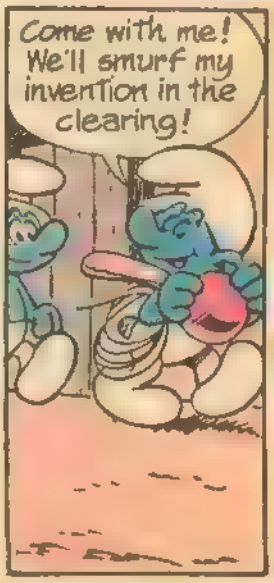
We'll never play smurfball with you again!
you BRUTE, you!
Go away!

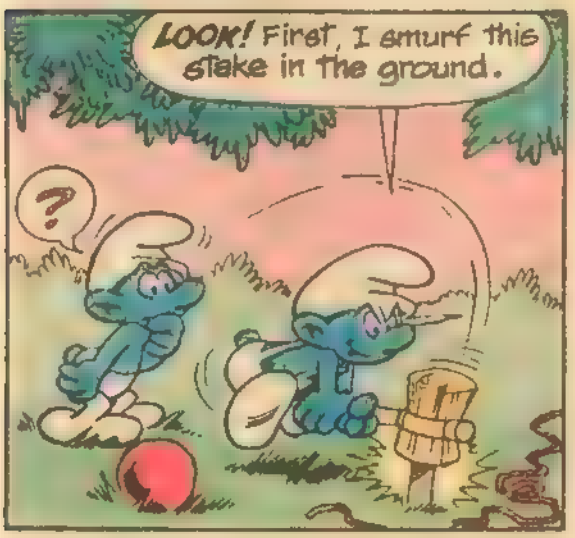
Can I help it if I'm too strong?

Perhaps Handy can help me!


A contraption that lets you play ball ALONE? Hmmm...Let's see--


Yes! Maybe I can smurf something for you!

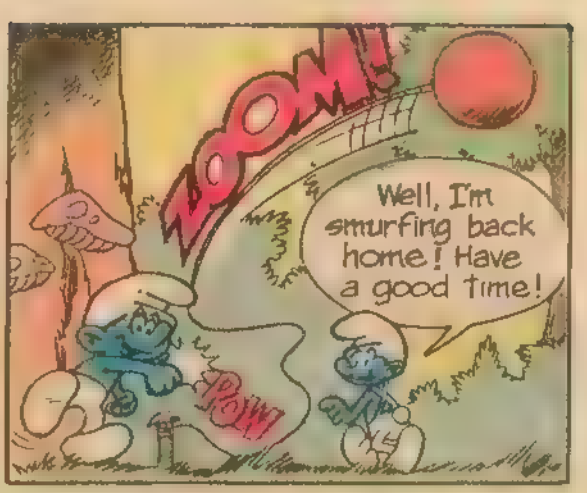

Come with me! We'll smurf my invention in the clearing!

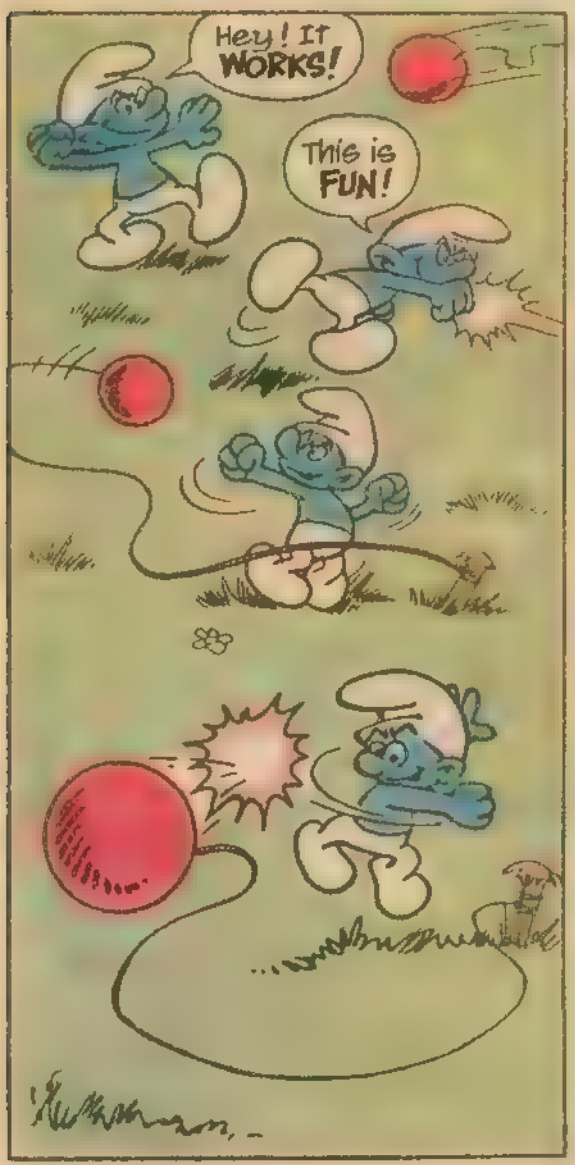

LOOK! First, I smurf this stake in the ground.
?

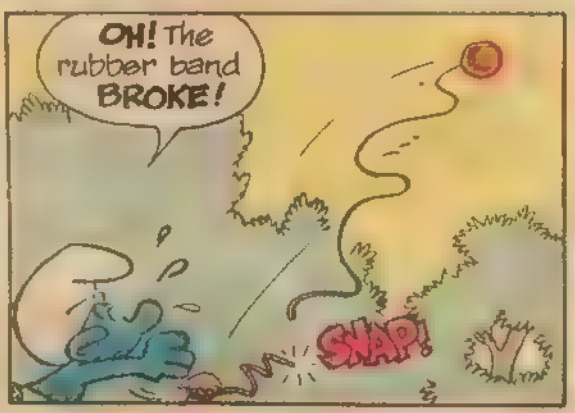
Then, I tie one end of this rubber band to it...

...while I fasten the other end to the ball.

THERE! The ball will smurf BACK to you, however HARD you throw it!
Gee, thanks, Handy!

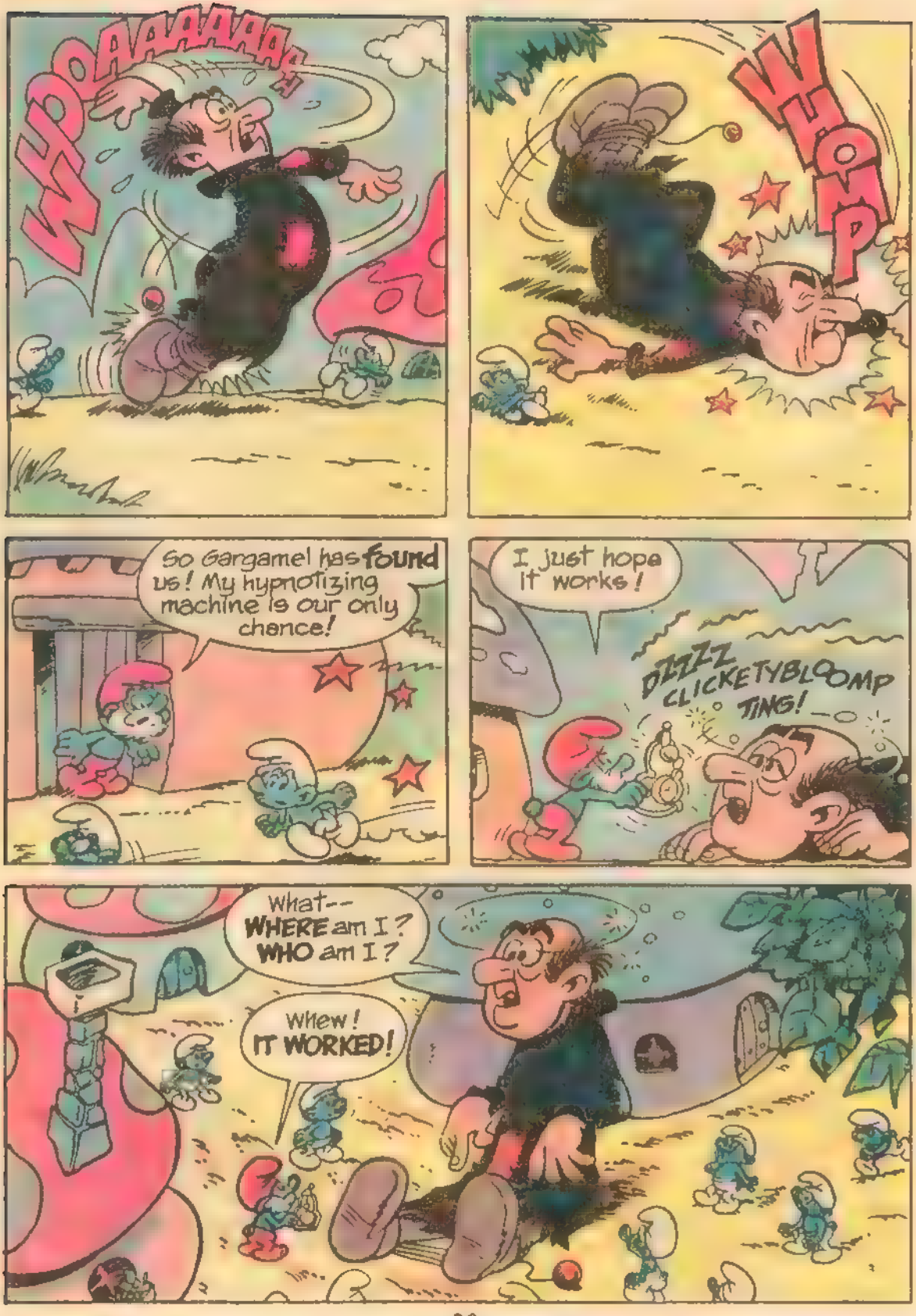

ZOOM!
Well, I'm smurfing back home! Have a good time!
TROW!

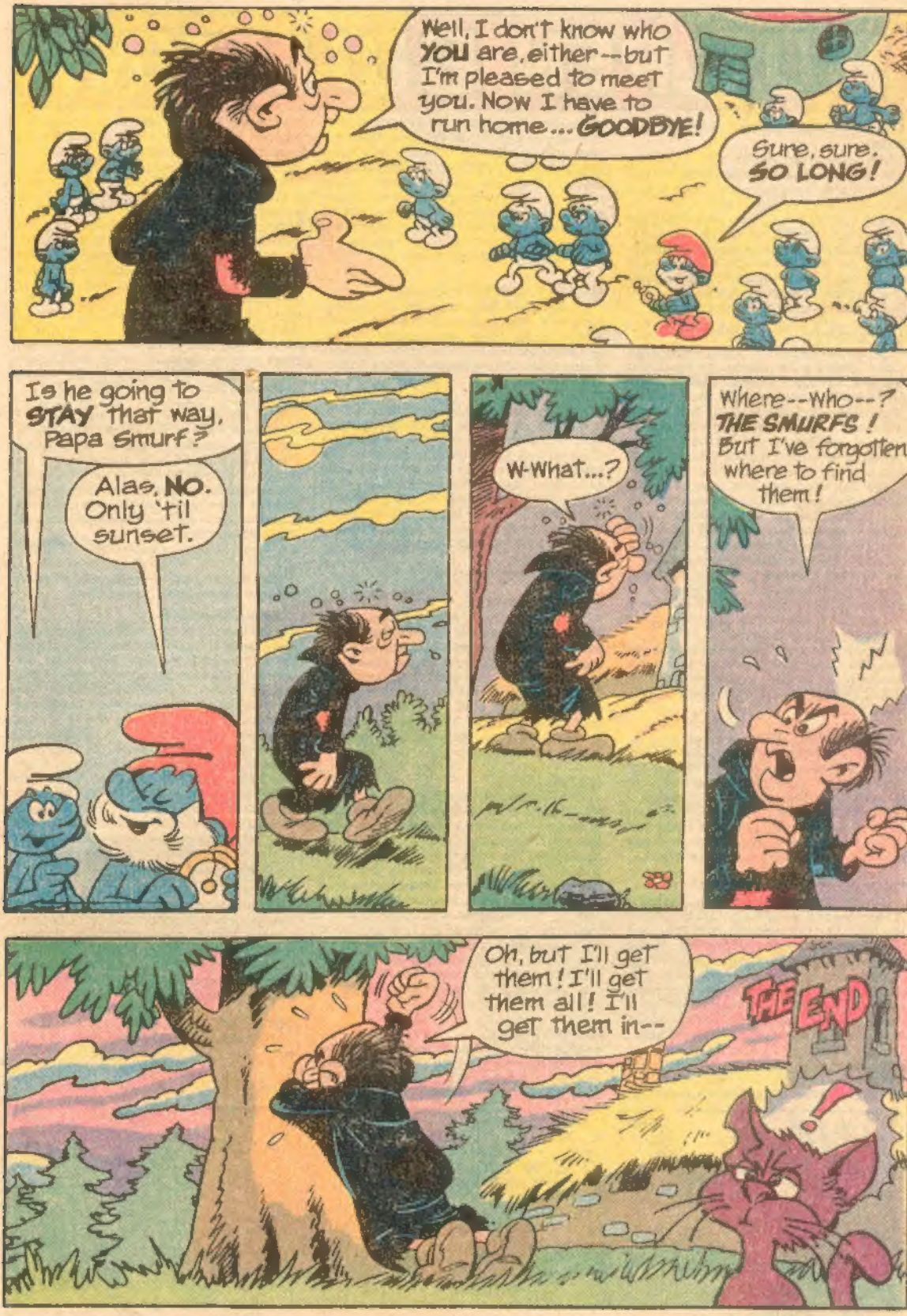

Hey! It WORKS!
This is FUN!


OH! The rubber band BROKE!
SNAP!

OUCH!

Where did this come from?
Wait! This is SMURF-sized! HEH-HEH! I've got an idea!
And so
Where is my ball?
Here it is!
I'll ask Handy Smurf to fix it!
However, unseen, the wicked Gargamel holds the other end of the rubber band...
HEH-HEH! This stupid Smurf will lead me to his village!
HEH-HEH-HEH! I'VE GOT YOU NOW!
It's GARGAMEL!
Help! Papa Smurf! HELP!
Must use my rubber band!
ZOOM!


WHOAAAAAAAA!
WHOMP
So Gargamel has found us! My hypnotizing machine is our only chance!
I just hope it works!
DIZZ-Z CLICKETYBLOOMP TING!
What-- WHERE am I? WHO am I?
Whew! IT WORKED!


Well, I don't know who YOU are, either--but I'm pleased to meet you. Now I have to run home... GOODBYE!
Sure, sure. SO LONG!
Is he going to STAY that way, Papa Smurf?
Alas, NO. Only 'til sunset.
W-What...?
Where--Who--? THE SMURFS! But I've forgotten where to find them!
Oh, but I'll get them! I'll get them all! I'll get them in--
THE END

BULLPEN BULLETINS

A COUPLE OF THINGS WENT WRONG LAST MONTH...

First, I was so late with the Bullpen Bulletins manuscript that a number of Marvel Comics had to be printed and shipped without it! An ad was inserted in its place at the printer's.

Second, when the Bullpen Page finally got done, it was *so* late that I couldn't take the time to check it over properly before it went out. As a result, a photo of the Marvel folks in attendance at the wedding of star writer Roger Stern and lovely Carmela Merlo was printed *half* the size I'd intended, and therefore looked a lot like mud.

HERE'S WHY!

Last month I was on the road for almost three weeks, attending the spectacular San Diego Convention in sunny southern California, and the incredible Chicago Con in the wonderful Windy City. I took my briefcase and a large portfolio, both full of work, along with me... but while I was in San Diego – I admit it – I succumbed to temptation. I spent two whole days plus a stolen afternoon or three relaxing. I played raquetball and lifted weights at the hotel's health spa, I went swimming in the hotel pool, jogging along the scenic waterfront, body surfing at the beach, and partying far into the night. I was joined in these thoroughly irresponsible activities by some of my favorite people – Joe Rubinstein, Jim Starlin and his wife Daina Graziunas, Bill Sienkiewicz, John Byrne and his wife Andrea, Carl Potts and Christie Scheele. It was wonderful – the nearest thing I've had to a vacation in about seven years.

The price for those couple of days off was high. The Bullpen Bulletins did not appear in a number of Marvel titles, and where it did, the photo it carried was naught but a blur. My fault. All my fault.

WHAT'S BEING DONE...

Well, I've already arranged for several of your favorite Marvel personalities to do *guest columns* which will appear on this page every once in a while when I think you folks out there need a change of pace – or when I'm in a jam! Also, I'm going to print *another* picture of Roger and Carmela when I run his guest column. Also, they made me give back my salary for last month...

OKAY, ON WITH NEW BUSINESS!

Did anyone *not* see the nifty, sixteen-page Marvel Comics Guide to Comic Collecting which was included in every single copy of *The Amazing Spider-Man* #234? From the response we received it's the most popular bonus feature ever offered in a comic book! If you somehow missed it, head for (or write to) the comics specialty shop nearest you. Many of them ordered a bunch of extra copies of *Spider-Man* #234 and of the Guide by itself, and they may still have a few left. If you don't know of any comics specialty shops near you, check the ads in this comic! Many shops and distributors advertise in Marvel publications. Or, write to me. I'll get back to you with a list of shops in your general area. Speaking of such shops, I'd like to thank the folks from SUNSHINE COMICS, located at 6370 BIRD ROAD, SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA 33155 for their help and cooperation, without which we couldn't have published the Collector's Guide. They originated the guide, and did hundreds of thousands of collectors across the country a service by allowing us to publish and widely distribute it. Thanks, folks!

MARVEL TROUNCES WARREN!

Thought you'd like to know that on August 3, 1982 the Bullpen Bombers trashed the Warren Warriors on the softball field by a score of 20 – 1. Our left-fielder and manager Robbie Caroselle led the attack with five hits in six at bats, including two homers.

Here's the line-up:

RF –Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of *EPIC* – 4 for 5; LF –Robbie Caroselle, Photostat Operator – 5 for 5; SS –Harry Eisenstein, Mail Clerk – 0 for 5 (but brilliant in the field); 1B –Jim Shooter, Editor-in-Chief – 2 for 5; CF –Ken Feduniewicz, Special Projects Production – 2 for 5; 3B –Nel Yomtov, Merchandising Development – 4 for 5; P –John Morelli, Letterer/Correctionist – 4 for 5; 2B —Lance Tooks, Assistant Editor – 4 for 5; SC –Ken Lopez, Production Assistant – 2 for 5

We had 'em all the way!

I HAVE TO MENTION...

...that in San Diego, at their annual awards banquet, our own Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of *EPIC Illustrated Magazine*, was honored with the prestigious Inkpot Award, acknowledging his contribution to the comics industry. If you want to see one reason why, buy or borrow a copy of *EPIC*. It'll convince you. A bunch of other Marvel folks have received Inkpots as well over the years. I'll run a complete list here sometime soon.

A WEEK LATER...

...in Chicago, at the Con, disaster nearly struck! You see *Spider-Man* was there, live and in person to give away free copies of the latest issues of *The Amazing Spider-Man* to the fans in attendance. The trouble was the shipment of comics never arrived! Fortunately, yours truly happened to bump into old Webhead in his hour of need, and I just happened to be carrying a hundred or so coupons, each good for a free subscription to any Marvel title. I promptly turned the coupons over to *our* hero, who found them an extremely effective substitute for his missing freebie comics. No problem. Now he owes me one. Just goes to show you, the Boy Scouts are right. Always be prepared.

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

...that I gave Eliot Brown some credit. He's the guy who typesets this thing (and almost every *other* thing) every month... and he does a darn good job, and we're grateful. But, typesetting isn't his *only* trick. He's also our resident photographer. He took the stunning photo which graced the cover of *Dazzler* #21 – as well as most of the other photos that have appeared in Marvel Comics in recent years. If a photo isn't credited otherwise, chances are it's Eliot's work. I should mention, too, that Eliot is our resident technical expert. If something's broken, he can fix it – if something's complicated, he can explain it – if you've got a problem, he can solve it. He draws – and he's especially good at technical drawing, like blueprints, diagrams, cutaways, mechanical drawing – he inks, he colors, he designs, he does boardwork, and other stuff, too, that I can't think of. Best of all, he's a real trouper who's stayed here at the office all night many times helping desperate artists and editors make deadlines. He's probably blushing now, as he typesets this – he's such a humble guy!

Well, Jim. I just don't know what to say, but I think that I'd like to take this singular opportunity to thank all the little people whose eyeballs I've ridden; when I think of Marvel Comics, the image of selfless comraderie almost, almost brings a tear to my eye, the hours of bonhommie, shoulder to shoulder... I can't go on – well, yes I could, but Jim is sliding his forefinger across his throat. Hmm. Thanks, Jim. Eliot R. Brown

But I couldn't pass this opportunity to let him know he's appreciated! Hooray, Eliot!

CONGRATULATIONS...

...are in order for my former secretary Franki Sienkiewicz. Being my secretary has got to be the toughest job in the place (tied, maybe, with the Traffic Manager job, which Virginia Romita handles so well!). It involves representing Marvel to the world and the freelancers, handling an enormous workload including tons of memos, letters and complicated projects, *all* of them urgent and important, supervising three or more office assistants and putting up with me. Franki took it all in stride – so well, in fact, that she received an impressive promotion. She's now *Administrative Manager of International Licensing*. Whew! I feel like I should *salute* even when I just write that title! I think what it means is, that she's in charge of Europe... or maybe just NATO.

Congratulations, Franki!

MY NEW SECRETARY...

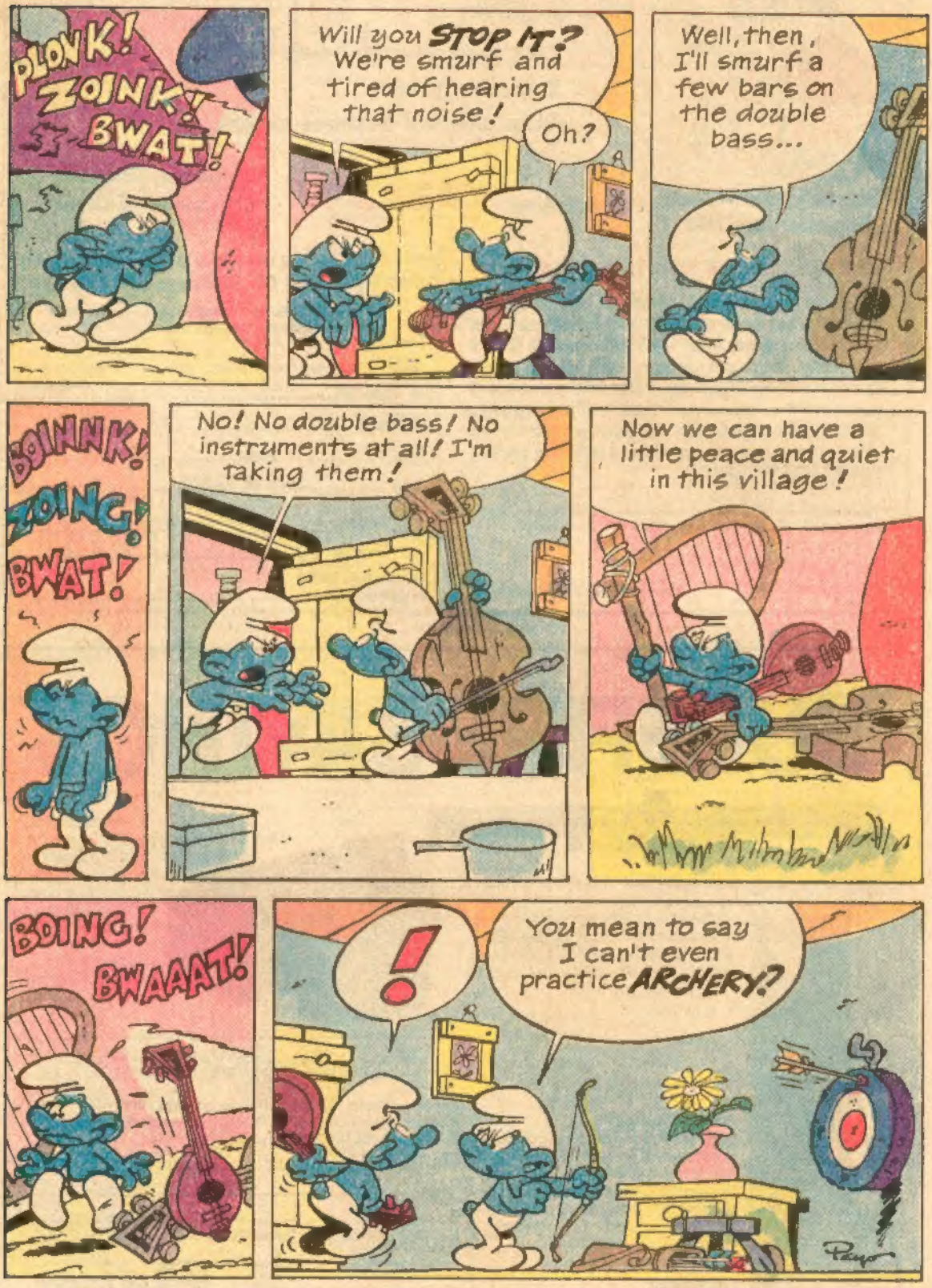
Pardon me, my new *Administrative Assistant* – the job grew a lot while Franki had it, because she was always eagerly shouldering more responsibility, so we had to change the title – is Lea Sapp. Lea is doing a great job and is already making me forget about ol' whatsername. Heh, heh. Just kidding, Franki.

GOTTA GO!

I think I see some NATO bombers headed this way!

Best,

ZING! WENT THE STRINGS OF MY SMURF...


PLONK!
ZOINK!
BWAT!
Will you STOP IT? We're smurf and tired of hearing that noise!
Oh?
Well, then, I'll smurf a few bars on the double bass...
BOINNK!
ZOING!
BWAT!
No! No double bass! No instruments at all! I'm taking them!
Now we can have a little peace and quiet in this village!
BOING!
BWAAAT!
!
You mean to say I can't even practice ARCHERY?

Ah! This will make a perfect mast for my boat!

CHEEP
CHEEP

CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
?

Just the tree I wanted, and those baby birds are nesting in it. Now what?

Unless... Yes! I think I smurfed a way out!

CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
See? You'll grow up to be salebirds now!